

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-11 ACDA-05 EUR-12 SAJ-01

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INR/REA:JYELLIN
NEA:PKBULLEN
INR/RNA/NE:AAVACCARO

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R 021823Z FEB 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, VN

SUBJECT: REPORTED NORTH VIETNAMESE ADVISORS IN SYRIA

1. WASHINGTON POST JANUARY 30 CARRIED ARTICLE BY JIM
HOAGLAND WHICH CLAIMED IN PART "NEW CONTINGENTS OF NORTH
VIETNAMESE ADVISORS AND LARGER NUMBERS OF NORTH KOREAN AND
CUBAN TECHNICIANS HAVE ARRIVED (IN DAMASCUS) OVER THE PAST
12 MONTHS TO JOIN THE ESTIMATED 3,000 SOVIET ADVISORS....
ALTHOUGH ESTIMATES VARY, THE COMBINED PRESENCE OF NORTH
VIETNAMESE, NORTH KOREANS AND CUBANS IS PUT AT 1,000 TO
1,500 MEN, ACCORDING TO ARAB SOURCES. THE CUBANS ARE
WORKING WITH ARMORED UNITS WHILE THE KOREANS AND VIETNAMESE
ARE CONCENTRATING ON AIR DEFENSE."

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2. DEPARTMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION CON-

FIRMING PRESENCE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE AMONG OTHER ADVISORS
IN SYRIA.

3. IT OUR IMPRESSION THAT CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL ALL LEFT
SYRIA SOME TIME AGO, AND THERE IS SOME DOUBT ABOUT STATUS
OF NORTH KOREAN ADVISORS. IF THERE IS ANY NEW INFORMATION
ON THESE TWO GROUPS, THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ADVISERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE025085
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DCHARR:PDW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760039-0262
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760291/aaaadbwm.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED NORTH VIETNAMESE ADVISORS IN SYRIA
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, VN, SY
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006